

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 186
By Sontany

A RESOLUTION naming May 21, 2005, "Armed Forces Day" in the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our county; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marines Corps, and Air Force Day; the single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department: the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, on Armed Forces Day 1962, President John F. Kennedy advised the people of the United States to "guard zealously (the) right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard"; today, the citizens of our Nation pause to honor those of you who have exercised that right and volunteered to defend our country; it is the privilege of this General Assembly to join them in recognizing the dedication of every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman who serves in our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many of you will be unable to attend ceremonies acknowledging your service – because you are on duty around the Nation and the world, defending America's interests and fighting the terrorists who threaten to destroy our way of life; be assured that the people of the United States recognize and appreciate your sacrifice; you continue to demonstrate the very best our Nation has to offer; and

WHEREAS, this past year has shown once again the depths of your courage and commitment, and your willingness to endure hardship. Whether National Guard, Reserve or active duty; whether serving on land, at sea, or in the air; whether deployed for combat

operations, participating in multinational exercises, or training for future missions, you have performed magnificently; all citizens of Tennessee and our country know they can depend on you to get the job done; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this Body hereby designates May 21, 2005, as "Armed Forces Day" in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.